GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1613
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
IMPORT OF CHEAP AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effective system of monitoring against any sudden surge in imports of highly subsidised cheap agricultural products from developed countries has been put in place;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any such monitoring and inspection system of imports, under various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Preferential Trade Agreement (PTAs) and Regional Trade Agreement (RTAs);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of cases of excessive dumping of cheap goods detected during the last three years;

(f) the details thereof; and

g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) :India, being a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) can initiate action to deal with the surge in imports under the provisions of WTO agreement. In case of dumping of goods, India can take action under the WTO Agreement on Anti dumping. In case of subsidization of goods through the export incentives granted by the exporting country, India can initiate action under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures for non agricultural products and under equivalent provisions of the Agreement of Agriculture (AOA) for Agricultural products. In case of surge of imports causing or threatening to cause injury to the domestic injury, India can also impose safeguard duty under the WTO Agreement on safeguards.

(c) & (d) : If subsidized or dumped imports are coming from the countries with whom India has signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Regional Trade Agreement (RTA) or Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), India can initiate action as per the provisions of the WTO Agreement. If import surge is happening because of the tariff preferences granted to the partner country, action can be initiated under the special safeguard measures, thereby withdrawing tariff preferences partially or fully after investigation.

(e) & (f): Directorate General of Anti Dumping (DGAD) is the authority that initiates action against the dumping of goods. Since the year 2004, DGAD has initiated 45 investigations.

Year wise break up of these investigations is indicated below.

Year	No of Anti dumping investigations initiated
2004	10
2005	11
2006	10
2007	14

(g): Safeguards provided under the WTO and the Free Trade Agreements ensure adequate protection to the domestic industry from the surge in imports, which cause or threaten to cause injury to the domestic industry.